

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 BEIRUT 08857 111540Z

42

ACTION IO-10

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 IOE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03

H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 USIA-06 SCCT-01 SAM-01 SAJ-01 ACDA-05 OMB-01

SAB-01 /076 W

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P R 111458Z JUL 75

FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5276

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

USMISSION USUN NY

C O N F I D E N T I A L BEIRUT 8857

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: UN, IS, PLO, XF

SUBJECT: PLO CAMPAIGN TO OUST ISRAEL FROM UN

REF: BEI

UT 8423

1. BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED.. IN COURSE LENGTHY FRONT-PAGE ARTICLE
WRITTEN BY EDITOR-IN-CHIEF, JIHAD KHAZEN, ENGLISH-
LANGUAGE "DAILY STAR" DISCUSSES, INTER ALIA, PLO VIEWS ON CAMPAIGN
TO "SUSPEND" ISRAEL FROM UNGA. RELEVANT PORTIONS OF ARTICLE
ARE QUOTED BELOW.

2. QUOTE. I (KHAZEN) ASKED PALESTINIAN LEADER AT HEART OF
UN CAMPAIGN WHAT RESISTANCE MOVEMENT HOPED TO ACHIEVE. HE
READILY ADMITTED THAT ISRAEL WOULD NOT RPT NOT BE SUSPENDED.

HE ESTIMATED THAT PLO WILL BE FEW VOTES SHORT OF TWO-
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PAGE 02 BEIRUT 08857 111540Z

THIRDS MAJORITY NEEDED TO SUSPEND ISRAEL. PALESTINIANS WILL

SECURE ABOUT 80 RPT 80 VOTES AGAINST ABOUT 50 ABSTAINING
AND OPPOSING VOTES.

PALESTINIANS, LEADER EXPLAINED, NEEDED THE SHOWDOWN AS MEANS
OF PRESSURE AGAINST U.S. IN CAMPAIGN TO GAIN FULL RECOGNITION,
IN ADDITION TO ITS PROPAGANDA VALUE.

HE SAID AMERICANS UNDERSTAND BETTER LANGUAGE OF FORCE; IT IS NO
USE TRYING TO APPEASE THEM. WHEN THEY REALIZE HOW CLOSE VOTE CAN
BE AND THINK OF POSSIBILITY OF SUCCESS FOR PALESTINIANS IN A
COMING SESSION, THEY WILL BECOME BETTER DISPOSED TO THINK OF
RECOGNIZING PLO AND FINISH WITH THIS PROBLEM ONCE AND FOR ALL.

PALESTINIAN LEADER, HOWEVER, EXPLAINED THAT "FORCE"
AGAINST THE AMERICANS--POLITICAL OR OTHERWISE--SHOULD BE USED
WITH UTMOST DISCRETION. HE SAID THERE WERE LIMITS THAT RESISTANCE
MOVEMENT SHOULD NOT RPT NOT GO BEYOND, BECAUSE IF U.S. IS
LEFT WITH ITS BACK TO WALL IT CAN REACT VIOLENTLY AND
PALESTINIANS ARE, OF COURSE, NOT A MATCH FOR U.S. POWER.

THE COMMANDO LEADER CITED OPERATIONS BY BLACK SEPTEMBER.
HE SAID THAT BLOWING UP OIL STORAGE TANKS OR DOCKING
FACILITIES IS PERMISSABLE IN WAR, BUT KILLING AN AMBASSADOR
INSIDE HIS EMBASSY COULD PROVOKE COUNTER-OPERATION IN WHICH
TOP COMMANDO LEADERS LOSE THEIR LIVES.

RETURNING TO SUBJECT OF UN, HE SAID THAT RESISTANCE MOVE-
MENT WOULD CONTINUE TO STEP ON TOES OF AMERICANS, BUT WITH-
OUT TRYING TO CRUSH ANY BONES, BECAUSE LIMITS OF RESISTANCE
MOVEMENT'S ABILITY AND UNLIMITED POWER OF U.S. MUST BE KEPT
IN MIND.

BUT WOULD NOT SHOWDOWN AT GENERAL ASSEMBLY HARM CHANCES OF
ULTIMATE U.S. RECOGNITION OF PLO?

NOT REALLY, HE SAID. "DELICATE PRESSURE ON A COUNTRY
CONDITIONED TO VIOLENCE IS MORE EFFECTIVE THAN APPEASEMENT.
AND ANYWAY, WE FEEL GREAT BITTERNESS THAT A SUPERPOWER SHOULD
ALLOW ITSELF TO BE HELD TO RANSOM BY AN AGGRESSIVE RACIST STATE,"
HE SAID, END QUOTE. END UNCLASSIFIED.
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PAGE 03 BEIRUT 08857 111540Z

3. BEGIN CONFIDENTIAL. COMMENT: KHAZEN HAS INFORMED US IN
CONFIDENCE (PERHAPS WITH 'ARAFAT'S KNOWLEDGE) THAT "PALESTINIAN
LEADER" WAS IN FACT YASSIR 'ARAFAT. WE BELIEVE THAT KHAZEN'S
CONVERSATION WITH 'ARAFAT TOOK PLACE EVENING JULY 8 RPT JULY 8
AT TIME WHEN 'ARAFAT GREATLY PREOCCUPIED WITH MORGAN CASE AND
"REJECTIONIST" DEFIANCE OF HIS LEADERSHIP. KHAZEN TOLD US HE
WENT TO PLO OFFICE TO SEE FAROUK QADDOUMI

AND WAS USHERED INTO 'ARAFAT'S OFFICE INSTEAD; 'ARAFAT APPARENTLY WISHED PUT HIS COMMENTS ON RECORD AND, PERHAPS, STATE HIS VIEWS REGARDING LIMITS OF APPROPRIATE FEDAYEEN ACTION VIS-A-VIS US, EXCLUDING MORE HEINOUS FORMS OF PERSONAL VIOLENCE. WHILE WE MAY NOT AGREE WITH HIS CHOICE OF TERM "DELICATE" TO CHARACTERIZE APPROVED PLO TACTICS, HE PROBABLY DOES REGARD THEM, IN THE CONTEXT OF INTRA-PALESTINIAN POLITICS, AS BEING EXTREMELY MEASURED.

4. 'ARAFAT'S STATEMENTS ON PLO CAMPAIGN TO OUST ISRAEL FROM UNGA STRIKE US AS RATIONAL (FROM PLO POINT OF VIEW) AND REALISTIC (ALTHOUGH WE NOT RPT NOT IN POSITION TO JUDGE ACCURACY OF HIS TABULATION OF PROBABLE UNGA VOTES). WE FIND IT INTERESTING THAT 'ARAFAT (ALTHOUGH DECLINING TO ASSUME PUBLIC RESPONSIBILITY FOR HIS REMARKS) HAS CHOSEN TO PLACE CAMPAIGN WITHIN CONTEXT OF HIS EFFORTS TO SECURE USG RECOGNITION. LOGICAL IMPLICATION OF THIS POSITION IS THAT CAMPAIGN'S OBJECTIVES ARE LIMITED. ONCE AGAIN, HOWEVER, 'ARAFAT HAS FALLEN FAR SHORT OF EXPLICIT RECOGNITION OF ISRAEL AND WHAT HE MAY WELL REGARD AS A SIGNAL (TO US AND ISRAELIS) ENDS UP AS A WHISPER.
END CONFIDENTIAL.
GODLEY

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